PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. __10016874-1__

**IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s): Edgar CIRCENIS

Confirmation No.: 4048

Application No.: 10/023,811

Examiner: S. Gelagay

Filing Date: 12/21/2001

Group Art Unit: 2137

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING EXECUTION OF A COMPUTER OPERATION

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on __Jan. 13, 2006__ .

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) $500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

(X) (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

05/16/2006 HGEBREH1 00000042 082025 10023811

( )	one month	$120.00
(X)	two months	$450.00
( )	three months	$1020.00
( )	four months	$1590.00

02 FC:1252   450.00 DA

( ) The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

( ) (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of __$950.00__ . At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	10/023,811
Applicant	:	Edgar Circenis
Filed	:	December 21, 2001
Title	:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING EXECUTION OF A COMPUTER OPERATION
TC/A.U.	:	2137
Examiner	:	Gelagay, Shewaye
Docket No.	:	10016874-1
Customer No.	:	022879

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Commissioner of Patents
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37

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I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest of the instant application is Hewlett-Packard Development

Company, a Texas Limited Liability Partnership having its principal place of business in

Houston, Texas.

WAS:119899.1

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other related appeals or interferences.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 32 are pending in the application.   Claims 1 - 32 stand finally rejected.

Applicants appeal the final rejection of claims 1 - 32.

The Claims Appendix sets forth all appealed claims in their present state.

IV.   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 12, 14 - 26 and 28 - 32 stand as originally filed. Claims 8, 13 and 27 were amended in a response to a first Office Action mailed March 24, 2005. No further amendments to the claims were made. A request for reconsideration with pending claims 1 - 32 was filed November 14, 2005. The Examiner issued an Advisory Action on December 15, 2005 ("Advisory Action"), indicating that the request for reconsideration was entered but does not place the application in condition of allowance.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claims are directed to execution of a computer operation. The specification describes a system that gives customers the capability to add either authorization or notification controls, or both, to a computer operation. The controls may check that all authorization and notification data, such as authorizing parties or parties to be notified, are specified prior to running the controls. The authorization controls may determine whether the computer operation was authorized. The computer operation then executes if authorized, and the notification control may notify any party after the computer operation executes. See specification, e.g., page 3, lines 20 - 26. In the described system, execution of a computer operation is regulated based on interaction with registered authorization and notification plug-ins, as customized by a customer. See also, page 2, line 31 - page 3, line 7.

All of the appealed claims are directed to execution of a computer operation. Specifically, claims 1 - 12 are directed to a method for regulating execution of a computer operation; claims 13 - 26 are directed to a computer operation for executing a system function on a computer; and claims 27 - 32 are directed to a method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer operator.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for regulating execution of a computer operation which includes reading one or more parameters specified with the computer operation (120, 130). See specification, e.g., page 7, lines 4 - 9, and Figure 2. As described in the specification, execution of the computer operation 15 may be requested by entering the name of the computer operation 15 in a command-line interface (CLI) or by using a GUI (110). See specification, e.g., page 7, lines 4 - 7, and Figure 2. Subsequently, a determination is made whether the computer operation requires a plug-in, and if the computer operation does not require a plug-in, the computer operation is executed. See specification, e.g., page 4, lines 17 - 19. If, however, the computer operation requires at least one plug-in,

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any required plug-in parameters are filtered from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation (130). See specification, e.g., page 7, lines 7 - 9, and Figure 2. A determination is made whether all required plug-in parameters for the plug-in have been specified and if not all the required plug-in parameters have been specified, the plug-in is terminated with failure (200, 210, 215, 260, 270, 275). See specification, e.g., page 7, line 28 - page 8, line 3, and Figures 3 and 4. If, however, all the required plug-in parameters have been specified, the at least one plug-in is executed (200, 240, 140, 145, 150, 170, 260, 280). See specification, e.g., page 8, lines 13 - 15, and Figures 2, 3 and 4. If the at least one plug-in terminates with success, the computer operation is executed (160, 200, 240, 260, 280). *See* specification, e.g., page 9, lines 32 - 34, and Figures 2, 3 and 4.

Independent claim 13 is directed to a computer operation for executing a system function on a computer. The computer operation includes a means for receiving at least one specified computer operation parameter (15, 20, 30). See specification, e.g., page 5, lines 3 - 10, and Figure 1. The computer operation also includes at least one plug-in that performs a regulatory function and that terminates with either success or failure (20, 30) (See specification, e.g., page 4, lines 1 - 11 and 26 - 34; and page 5, line 3 - page 6, line 9); means for operating the at least one plug-in a check mode (15, 20, 30) (See specification, e.g., page 4, lines 1 - 11 and 26 - 34; and page 5, line 3 - page 6, line 9); and means for operating the at least one plug-in in an execute mode (15, 20, 30). See specification, e.g., page 6, lines 10 - 28. The computer operation executes only if the at least one plug-in terminates with success. See specification, beginning at page 4, line 1 to page 11, line 34, and Figures 3 and 4.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer operator. The method includes providing a programming interface for a customer to customize an authorization routine (10, 110, 120). See specification, e.g., page 2, lines 23 - 26; page 3, lines 20 - 32; page 4, lines 12 - 21, and Figures 1 and 2. A

request to execute a computer operation is received from a computer operator and a determination is made whether authorization is required for executing the computer operation (110). See specification, e.g., page 7, lines 3 - 7, and Figure 2. If authorization is required for executing the computer operation, authorization is sought from an authorizing party with the authorization routine (220). See specification, e.g., page 8, lines 19 - 28, and Figure 2. Furthermore, an authorization plug-in is operated in a check mode which includes determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified (140, 185, 190, 200). See specification, e.g., page 7 lines 15 - 18; page 7, lines 19 - 30, and Figures 2 and 3. The authorization plug-in is operated in an execute mode if all required plug-in parameters are specified (145, 220). See specification, e.g., page 8 lines 13 - 26, and Figures 2 and 3. The computer operation is executed if authorization is granted, and terminated if authorization is denied (220, 230, 235, 240). See specification, e.g., page 8, lines 23 - 34, and Figure 3.

VI.   GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(A) Claims 27 - 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0147801 to Gullotta et al. (hereafter Gullotta) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0047275 to Terretta (hereafter Terretta). (See September 13, 2005 Office Action ("Final Office Action"), pages 3 - 6, paragraph 5).

(B) Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, and 10 - 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,842,903 to Weschler (hereafter Weschler) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0016915 to Kumazawa et al. (hereafter Kumazawa). (See Final Office Action, pages 6 - 10, paragraph 6).

(C) Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,694,312 to Kobayashi et al. (hereafter Kobayashi). (See Final Office Action, pages 10 - 11, paragraph 7).

(D) Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,857,067 to Edelman (hereafter Edelman). (See Final Office Action, pages 11 - 12, paragraph 8).

(E) Claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Terretta. (See Final Office Action, pages 12 - 17, paragraph 9).

(F) Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and in view of Terretta and further in view of Kobayashi. (See Final Office Action, pages 17 - 18, paragraph 10).

(G) Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa in view of Terretta and further in view of Edelman. (See Final Office Action, pages 19 - 20, paragraph 11).

(H) Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gullotta in view of Terretta and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0174023 to Grey et al. (hereafter Grey). (See Final Office Action, pages 20 - 21, paragraph 12).

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VII. ARGUMENT

The pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art. As noted above, the Final Office Action sets forth eight (8) grounds for rejection using different combinations of seven (7) references, all based on 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 1 - 32 because the applied references do not disclose or suggest every feature of the independent and dependent claims. For example, Gullotta and Terretta, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest, at least, "operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified," as recited in independent claim 27. Moreover, as described below, the Final Office Action fails to show where motivation to combine the references is provided in the prior art, and that the resulting combination would result in the claimed invention.

With respect to independent claim 1, Weschler and Kumazawa individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest, at least, "filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation" and "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified," as recited.

With respect to independent claim 13, Weschler, Kumazawa and Terretta, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest, at least, "means for operating the at least one plug-in a check mode," as claimed.

Moreover, as described below, the applied references do not disclose or suggest features recited in the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 - 32 are patentable over the applied references. For the reasons detailed herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 - 32 as being obvious over the applied references be vacated and reversed.

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A. **The Examiner Fails to Establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness With Respect to Claims 27 - 31**

Claims 27 - 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gullotta in view of Terretta. See Final Office Action, pages 3 - 6, paragraph 5.

1. **Gullotta and Terretta, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest all the Features of Claims 27 - 31**

Considering claim 27, the Examiner asserts that Gullotta discloses all the features recited therein except that "Gullotta does not explicitly disclose operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified; and if all required plug-in [parameters] are specified operating the authorization [sic] in an execute mode." See Final Office Action, p. 4, last paragraph. However, the Examiner asserts that Terretta discloses operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified.

Contrary to what is asserted in the Final Office Action, Gullotta and Terretta, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, at least, "operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified," as recited in independent claim 27.

The Examiner fails to establish a case of *prima facie* obviousness, which requires that <u>all</u> the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 493 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Gullotta is directed to systems and methods for provisioning users based on policies, user roles and attributes, which reduces or minimizes the number of unique roles which must be created. See, e.g., Abstract and page 1, paragraph 11. The provisioning provides network users with certain resources, such as e-mail and voice mail accounts, and telephones and pagers, based on the needs or roles of those users. See, e.g., Abstract.

The Examiner asserts that all the features of, for example, claim 27 are disclosed in Gullotta, but fails to clearly point out where the alleged features of the claims are specifically disclosed or suggested in Gullotta. See Final Office Action, pages 3 - 5. The listed sections do not make apparent that Gullotta discloses all of the features of claim 27. The MPEP requires that the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained. See MPEP § 706. However, the Examiner merely cites to different sections of Gullotta, without explaining how these sections disclose or even suggest the claimed features. For example, to support that Gullotta discloses "receiving a request to execute a computer operation from a computer operator," the Office Action cites only to Gullotta, page 6, paragraph 65, without providing any further discussion or explanation. See Final Office Action, page 4. The cited section of Gullotta states:

> [0065] In one preferred embodiment, a service may be bundled as a set with other services that are related through administrator-defined dependencies defined through the administrator interface. The Service Configuration applications 116 may include an interface to the Form Generation application 114 to provide custom forms for the account information to be used in the User Management web user application, which is the Web-based user interface that allows a user to add, modify, and delete other users.

Based on the above section of Gullotta, it is unclear what is being equated to as the claimed "request" received to execute a computer operation and what is being equated to as the claimed "computer operation" to be executed on the computer system. The problem is further highlighted when the Examiner refers only to page 7, paragraph 78, without explanation, for support that Gullotta discloses "determining if authorization is required for executing the computer operation" and "seeking authorization from an authorizing party with the authorization routine if authorization is required." See Final Office Action, page 4. Paragraph 78 states:

> [0078] The applications services 132 may also include a Policy Engine 148 for executing policies that associate users with services. The Policy Engine 148 functions to determine whether or not provisioning requests conform to defined policies and to provide correct recovery procedures in the event that a

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> policy is violated. If an <u>approval is needed for a provisioning request</u>, the Policy Engine 148 interfaces with a Workflow Engine 150 to notify and obtain authorization instructions from the appropriate authorization entity, which may be, for example, one or more users having pre-defined supervisory roles (emphasis added).

The above section states that "approval is needed for a provisioning request," however the Examiner does not indicate whether the "provisioning request" is being equated to the claimed "computer operation." If the "provisioning request" (described in paragraph 78) is being equated to the claimed "computer operation," paragraph 65 does not describe "provisioning request," as described in paragraph 78. Consequently, paragraph 65 cannot and does not describe the feature of "receiving a request to execute a computer operation...," since it does not describe a provisioning request. If the "provisioning request" in Gullotta is not being equated to the claimed "computer operation," then paragraph 78 cannot and does not disclose or suggest the features of "determining if authorization is required for executing the computer operation" and "seeking authorization from an authorizing party with the authorization routine if authorization is required," since this paragraph describes approval for a "provisioning request." The Examiner fails to specifically point out which element of the cited section in Gullotta is being equated to the corresponding claim element allegedly disclosed. Moreover, the Final Office Action is not consistent in its use of elements found in Gullotta that allegedly equate to the claim elements, as described above.

Another example of this deficiency is illustrated when the Examiner asserts that Gullotta discloses "executing the computer operation if authorization is granted" and "terminating the computer operation if authorization is denied." The Examiner cites to page 8, paragraph 91, without explanation of which elements of Gullotta correspond to the claim elements. See Final Office Action, page 4. Paragraph 91 states:

> [0091] In preferred embodiments, each request to the Application Server (<u>requests from users for provisioned services</u>) is authenticated and authorized before it is executed. At this level, only proper system credentials may be sufficient for authentication, to determine whether a valid Web Server is

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making the request. However, by requiring authorization of the requesting user before any request is executed, the Web Server component may remain in an untrusted domain (emphasis added).

In the cited section, "requests from users for provisioned services" are authorized or authenticated before execution, not the claimed "computer operation." Unless, "requests from users for provisioned services" are now considered the claimed "computer operation," paragraph 91 does not disclose or suggest the aforementioned features. If this new definition of "computer operation" is adopted, then the earlier sections cited by the Examiner are inconsistent, and do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the invention as a whole must be considered. See *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 1538 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

The above illustrates the Examiner's failure to provide clear and sufficient support for claim elements allegedly disclosed by Gullotta. Applicant submits that the Final Office Action fails to show how Gullotta discloses or suggests the above-described features of claim 27. Indeed, Gullotta does not disclose or suggest several features of independent claim 27.

Moreover, the Examiner admits that "Gullotta does not explicitly disclose operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified; and if all required plug-in [parameters] are specified operating the authorization [sic] in an execute mode." See Final Office Action, p. 4, last paragraph. The Examiner relies on Terretta for the missing elements. Terretta, however, does not overcome the deficiencies of Gullotta, those described above as well as those admitted in the Final Office Action.

Terretta is directed to a system for registering and delivering authenticated content, such as pay-pre-view programming, over a computer network. See, e.g., page 1, paragraph 11. In operation, Terretta's system starts when a user enters a user name and password, and forwards the information for evaluation and verification. In return, the user's current

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registration is returned to the user's computer, and specifically to an authentication plug-in. See page 4, paragraph 38. The plug-in determines if the user is already receiving content, and if not, verifies the password is correct and that the user is part of a group having access to the requested content. If the user is already viewing the requested content, the user's password may have been compromised. If the user is not viewing the requested content, streaming of the content to the user is authorized. See page 4, paragraphs 39 and 40. As Terretta's disclosure makes clear, the system is designed to ensure "one ticket, one seat." See page 2, paragraph 22. Also clear is that the above description of **Terretta's system refers to operation of the plug-in in an execute mode** - that is, the plug-in simply takes the password information, verifies that the password is correct, and then authorizes delivery of the content. There is nothing in paragraphs 38 - 40, or for that matter, in any other part of Terretta, that refers to **a check mode** for the plug-in that is **separate from the execute mode** of the plug-in.

The Examiner has apparently equated execution of Terretta's plug-in's authentication routine (i.e., the execute mode), with the claimed "check mode." See Final Office Action, page 5. These are not the same thing. As stated above, claim 27 recites a check mode for the plug-in that is separate from the execute mode of the plug-in. This separation between the claimed "check mode" and Terretta's authentication routine (i.e., the execute mode) is further illustrated by claim 27 which recites a check mode comprising "determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified," and "if all required plug-in parameters are specified operating the authorization plug-in in an execute mode." This illustrates that the claimed invention recites a "check mode" and an independent "execution mode." Claim 27 further recites "executing the computer operation if authorization is granted." In other words, as claimed, even after it is determined that all the required plug-in parameters are specified, in the check-mode, the computer operation is executed, in the execute mode, only if

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authorization is granted. This separation of the check mode and execute mode is not disclosed or suggested in Terretta or Gullotta, applied separately or in combination.

The Advisory Action states "[Terretta] discloses a user name and password and associated plug-in is forwarded to the LDAP database and in response [sic] the LDAP returns the user's current registration information to the plug-in before user authorization is performed." See Advisory Action, continuation sheet. However, the Advisory Action simply restates the position in the Final Office Action without providing any further evidence showing that Terretta discloses or suggests, for example, a check mode, as claimed. Further, the Final Office Action states: "check mode is interpreted as checking if the parameters required for the given plug-in have been specified." Final Office Action, page 5, first paragraph. However, Terretta does not disclose or suggest anywhere the afore-mentioned feature. Simply put, Terretta does not disclose or suggest a check mode for operating the authorization plug-in, and no amount of contortion can make Terretta's system anticipate the claimed invention.

2. The Examiner Fails to Provide Motivation to Combine Gullotta with Terretta

In addition, the Examiner fails to show why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine Gullotta and Terretta, and that the combination would result in the claimed invention. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings and there must be a reasonable expectation of success. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d at 493.

As described above, Gullotta is directed to a system and method for provisioning that provides network users with certain resources, such as e-mail and voice mail accounts, and telephones and pagers, based on the needs or roles of those users. Terretta is directed to a system for registering and delivering authenticated content, such as pay-pre-view programming, over a computer network. The Examiner fails to sufficiently show why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine Gullotta's method for provisioning users with resources with Terretta's method for registering and delivering authenticated content over a computer network. In support of the motivation to combine, the Examiner asserts:

> it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Gullotta and Terretta to include operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified; and if all required plug-in are specified operating the authorization in an execute mode. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been have motivated to do so, as suggested by Gullotta (Page 1, paragraph 14) for provisioning users based on policies that can take various process paths that are established as a result of the entry of users parameters.

See Final Office Action, page 5. As described above, neither Gullotta or Terretta disclose or suggest the claimed "check mode," however, the Examiner suggests the modification of Gullotta and Terretta with a "check mode," as claimed. It appears that the Examiner, impermissibly, resorts to applicant's disclosure for the missing claim element as well as for the motivation to modify and combine references. The MPEP specifically states that impermissible hindsight must be avoided and the legal conclusion that references can be combined must be reached on the basis of the facts gleaned from the prior art, not applicant's disclosure. See MPEP § 2142.

Moreover, the Examiner fails to illustrate that the combination of Gullotta and Terretta would result in operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified, as claimed. Using a separate

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check mode allows the computer system implementing the plug-in to send an error message to the user should any required plug-in parameters be missing, before the plug-in's actual authentication/authorization routine executes. As described above, neither Gullotta or Terretta disclose or suggest these features.

For the reasons stated above, the Examiner fails to establish, and cannot establish, that claims 27 - 31 are *prima facie* obvious over Gullotta and Terretta. Because Gullotta and Terretta, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 27, claim 27 is patentable.

Claims 28 - 31 depend from patentable claim 27, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 28 - 31 are also patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 27 - 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Gullotta and Terretta be vacated and reversed.

B.   Weschler and Kumazawa, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest all the Features of Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8 and 10 - 12

Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, and 10 - 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa. See Final Office Action, pages 6 - 10, paragraph 6.

1.   Independent Claim 1 Contains Patentable Subject Matter

Considering claim 1, the Examiner asserts, *inter alia*, that Weschler discloses the claimed features "if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation," and "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified." See Final Office Action, page 7. In support of its assertion, the Final Office Action cites Weschler at column 8, lines 7 - 9 and lines 11 - 14.

The Examiner then admits that Weschler does not disclose other features of claim 1, specifically terminating the at least one plug-in with failure if not all the required plug-in parameters have been specified; executing the at least one plug-in if all the required plug-in

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parameters have been specified; and executing the computer operation of the at least one plug-in terminates with success, wherein the at least one plug-in regulates execution of the computer program. See Final Office Action, page 7. However, the Examiner asserts that Kumazawa discloses these elements missing from Weschler, and contends that it would have been obvious to combine Weschler and Kumazawa to produce the invention recited in claim 1. See Final Office Action, pages 7 - 8.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner asserts that Weschler "discloses plug-in modules like authorization and authentication module [sic] that are plugged in by specifying an initialization parameter. (Col. 8, lines 5 - 15; Col. 14, lines 1 - 14) ... [t]he parameters are specified beforehand and are determined before the plug-in is run, therefore, Weschler teaches determining and filtering required parameters." See Advisory Action, continuation sheet. See Final Office Action, pages 2 - 3.

Applicant respectfully submits, as described below, that the cited sections of Weschler do not disclose or suggest "filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation," and "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified," as recited in claim 1. Moreover, the admitted deficiencies of Weschler are not overcome by the Kamazawa reference. Contrary to assertions in the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action, claim elements are missing from both references, thus the combination does not render claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, and 10 - 12 obvious.

Weschler is directed to a system that allows one application program running on a computer, which is part of a computer network, to access another application program on the same computer, or on another computer that is also part of the computer network, without requiring knowledge of how to find the service or a particular version of the service on a distributed computer network. See, e.g., Abstract. More specifically, the system allows a

computer program to access compatible plug-in features that reside at a location remote from the computer program. The plug-in features may reside on a computer other than the one hosting the computer program. Alternatively, the plug-in features may be stored on the same computer as the computer program. See column 4, lines 15 - 39. The plug-in features allow the computer to expand it's core functionality to include the functionality of the plug-in features. See column 6, lines 29 - 34. To access the plug-in features, a core profile engine 201 receives an initialization parameter from a corresponding plug-in module, where <u>the initialization parameter is the storage location</u> of the plug-n module. See column 8, lines 5 – 9. Thus, the only plug-in parameter disclosed or discussed in Weschler is the <u>address</u> of the plug-in. Consequently, Weschler cannot and does not disclose or suggest "filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation," as recited in claim 1. For this same reason, Weschler does not disclose or suggest any step related to determining if "all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been satisfied," as further recited in claim 1. Instead, Weschler's system creates a runtime binding to the plug-in module, making "the program behavior embodied in the plug-in module ... available." See column 8, lines 10 – 14. Thus, **in Weschler, there is no need to pass or filter parameters from the computer system** (the core profile engine 201) to the plug-in module. Furthermore, Weschler does not disclose or suggest operating the at least one plug-in in a <u>check mode</u> and operating the at least one plug-in in an <u>execute mode</u>. That is, Weschler does not disclose or suggest a check routine in which all required plug-in parameters are verified before the plug-in executes.

In view of the above, Applicant contends that Weschler does not disclose or suggest at least two of the elements recited in claim 1. In addition, as described above, the Examiner admits that Weschler does not disclose other features of claim 1, but asserts that these

features are taught by Kumazawa. However, Kumazawa does not disclose or suggest at least those claim elements that Applicant submits are missing from Weschler.

Kumazawa is directed to a system for authenticating data to be retrieved by a data terminal from a central server. See, e.g., Abstract and paragraphs 11-13. An authentication routine SQ 15 is provided by plug-in Ptfc1. See page 3, paragraph 38. Operation of the authentication routine SQ 15 is described with respect to Figure 7. See page 3, paragraph 41. Specifically, the authentication routine SQ 15 determines if certain data, first locator Lcnt, is embedded as an electronic watermark with retrieved index data Didx as part of embedded graphic data Dbgpc. If the first locator Lcnt is not so embedded, the authentication routine SQ 15 terminates, and the data retrieval is prevented. See page 1, paragraph 41. If the first locator Lcnt is embedded, the first locator (now designated as Lwent) is compared to text locator Ltent. If Lwent and Ltent match, then the data retrieval is allowed. See pages 3 - 4, paragraphs 42 and 43. Note that in the disclosed description of the authentication routine SQ 15, **Kumazawa's plug-in Ptfc1 at no time checks to see if all the required plug-in parameters have been specified**. The only value tested by the plug-in Ptfc1 is the first locator Lcnt. If the first locator Lcnt is not embedded, then the authentication routine SQ 15 terminates. Thus Kumazawa does not cure all the defects in Weschler, namely "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified," as in claim 1. Furthermore, Kumazawa does not disclose or suggest "filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation," as also recited in claim 1. That is, in Kumazawa's system, if a number of plug-in parameters have been specified, but only a subset of those parameters pertain to the authentication plug-in Ptfc1, there is no mechanism to "select" or "filter" out the non-pertinent parameters. Thus Kumazawa does not disclose or suggest at least the two claim elements that Applicant described above are not in Weschler.

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In contrast to Weschler and Kumazawa, claim 1 recites if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation and determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified. The recited filtering step involves sifting through a number of parameters, and selecting those parameters that are required by the plug-in. Since these features are not disclosed or suggested by Weschler and Kumazawa, individually and in combination, claim 1 is patentable.

2.   Dependent Claims 2, 3, 6 – 8 and 10 - 12 Contain Independently Patentable Subject Matter

Considering dependent claim 11, the Final Office Action asserts that Weschler discloses the claimed subject matter. To support this assertion, the Examiner cites to Weschler at column 14, lines 1 – 14. See Final Office Action, page 10. This portion of Weschler consists of one element of Weschler's claim 16, followed by a wherein clause. See Weschler, column 14, lines 1 - 14. The element is a pluggable interface that provides an initialization parameter. The wherein clause recites that the pluggable interface includes a service connector adapted to receive a service request and to return a reference. Nothing in the cited portions of Weschler's claim 16 discloses or suggests determining whether all the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation, and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation, as in dependent claim 11. Furthermore, no other part of Weschler discloses this feature, and Kumazawa does nothing to cure this defect in Weschler.

In contrast to Weschler (and Kumazawa), claim 11 recites "determining whether all of the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation, whereby the computer operation is not executed if the notification plug-in terminates with failure after determining whether all of the plug-in parameters are specified." Since, as

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discussed above, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Weschler and Kumazawa, individually and in combination, claim 11 is patentable. Claim 11 is also patentable because of its dependence on patentable claim 1.

Claim 2, 3, 6 – 8, 10, and 12 depend from patentable claim 1, and for this reason, and the additional features they recite, claims 2, 3, 6 – 8, 10, and 12 are also patentable.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 - 3, 6 – 8 and 10 - 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Weschler and Kumazawa be vacated and reversed.

C.   Weschler, Kumazawa and Kobayashi, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest the Features of Claims 4 and 5

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Kobayashi. See Final Office Action, pages 10 - 11, paragraph 7.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from patentable claim 1, consequently, for at least this reason, claims 4 and 5 are also patentable. Moreover, claims 4 and 5 recite additional features not found in the applied art. Claim 4 recites "passing a data structure to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified." Claim 5, which depends from claim 4, recites "prompting a user of the computer operation for the required plug-in parameters that had not been specified based on the data structure."

The Examiner admits that Weschler and Kamazawa do not disclose or suggest the features of claims 4 and 5. See Final Office Action, pages 10 - 11, paragraph 7. However, the Examiner asserts that Kobayashi discloses the missing features, and that the modification of Weschler and Kumazawa with the features found in Kobayashi would have been obvious because:

> a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Weschler and Kumazawa to include passing a data structure to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-

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in parameters have not been specified. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by, Kobayashi (Col. 6, lines 35-38) in order to permit the user to directly specify to control the execution of external functions (emphasis added).

See Final Office Action, page 10, paragraph 7. To reject claims 4 and 5, the Final Office Action cites Kobayashi, column 6, lines 56 - 58, for support. However, the Examiner fails to consider the entire section but only cites to a portion of the text. The entire section in Kobayashi states:

> The parallel database management system may comprise:
>
> means for causing the request reception server to recognize that information to be passed to the plug-in modules as an input, when the plug-in modules are executed on the execution servers, is acquired by executing another plug-in module on the request reception server, when the request reception server creates an execution procedure code for instructing an execution procedure for the database processing appropriate to the request from the user... (emphasis added).

Column 6, lines 54 - 64. Thus, contrary to what is asserted in the Final Office Action, Kobayashi states that the input is acquired by executing another plug-in module on the request reception server, not by the user. See Final Office Action, page 11. Thus, the Examiner does not provide sufficient motivation to combine Kobayashi with Weschler and Kamazawa. See *In re Vaeck,* 947 F.2d at 493 (to establish a *prima facie* case obviousness the motivation to combine must be found in the prior art, not from the applicant's disclosure). Moreover, the cited section of Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 4 and 5, as claimed. The cited section of Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest "passing a data structure to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified" and "prompting a user of the computer operation for the required plug-in parameters that had not been specified based on the data structure," as claimed. Since, as discussed above, these features are not disclosed or suggested by Weschler,

Kumazawa and Kobayashi, individually and in combination, claims 4 and 5 are patentable.

Claims 4 and 5 are also patentable because of their dependence on patentable claim 1.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4 and 5 as

being obvious over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Kobayashi be

vacated and reversed for these reasons as well.

D. Weschler, Kumazawa and Edelman, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest the Features of Claim 9

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of

Kumazawa and further in view of Edelman. See Final Office Action, pages 11 - 12,

paragraph 8.

Claim 9 is patentable for at least the above reasons with respect to claim 1, from

which it depends, and the additional features it recites. Claim 9 recites "the at least one

authorization parameter is generated using a license key generating tool." The Examiner

admits that Weschler and Kumazawa do not disclose this feature, however asserts that

Edelman discloses this feature. The Final Office Action cites to two separate sections in

Edelman that allegedly disclose the aforementioned claimed features. See Final Office

Action, page 12. In the first section cited in the Final Office Action, Edelman states "[t]he

contents of the smart card 120 also may be changed in order to transfer a license to access the

software from one smart card to another or to update time-stamps that indicate when

authorization to use the software or the licensing medium itself expires." See Edelman,

column 8, lines 10 - 14. In the second cited section, Edelman discloses a "license data

storage means configured to communicate with the electronic device, the license data

configured to be used by the electronic device to determine whether to allow access to the

electronic data." See Edelman, column 18, lines 64 - 67. However, these sections of

Edelman say nothing about using a license key generating tool to generate an <u>authorization</u>

parameter, as claimed. Contrary to what is asserted in the Final Office Action, Edelman does

not disclose or suggest the feature recited in dependent claim 9.

Since Weschler, Kumazawa and Edelman, individually and in combination, do not

disclose or suggest the feature of dependent claim 9, claim 9 is patentable. Claim 9 is also

patentable because of its dependence on patentable claim 1.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 9 as being

obvious over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Edelman be vacated and

reversed for these reasons as well.

> **E.** **Weschler, Kumazawa and Terretta, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest all the Features of the Claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26**

Claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler

in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Terretta. See Final Office Action, pages 12 - 17,

paragraph 9.

> **1.** **Independent Claim 13 Contains Patentable Subject Matter**

Considering independent claim 13, the Office Action asserts that the combination of

Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta teaches or suggests all that is recited, with Weschler and

Kumazawa failing to disclose operating the plug-in in a check mode, but Terretta disclosing

this feature. However, as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 27, Terretta

does teach or suggest means for operating the at least one plug-in in a "check mode."

In contrast to Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta, claim 13 recites means for

operating the at least one plug-in in a check mode. Since Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta,

individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest this feature, claim 13 is

patentable.

2.   Dependent Claims 14 - 20, 23, 25 and 26 Contain Independently Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 14 - 20, 23, 25 and 26 depend from patentable claim 13. For this reason and the additional features they recite, these claims are also patentable. For example, dependent claim 16 recites an additional feature not disclosed in Weschler, Kumazawa and Terretta. With respect to claim 16, the Examiner asserts that Weschler discloses the claimed subject matter. To support this assertion, the Final Office Action cites to Weschler at column 14, lines 1 – 4. See Final Office Action, page 15. This portion of Weschler consists of one element of Weschler's claim 16 which recites:

> a pluggable interface attaching to the plug-in service modules, wherein the attaching includes providing an initialization parameter comprising a storage location for each of the plug-in service modules.

See column 14, lines 1 - 4. However, this section states nothing about "the at least one plug-in determines whether any required plug-in parameters are among the specified plug-in parameters," as recited in dependent claim 16. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over the Weschler, Kumazawa and Terretta for this additional reason.

Moreover, the Final Office Action does not make a *prima facie* case of obviousness because it fails to show where the applied references disclose the structure of the means-plus-function claims, such as claims 13 - 26, as required by the MPEP. See MPEP §§ 2182 - 2183.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 as being obvious over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Terretta be vacated and reversed for these reasons.

F.   **Weschler, Kumazawa, Terretta and Kobayashi, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest all the Features of Claims 21 and 22**

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa, in view of Terretta and further in view of Kobayashi. See Final Office Action, pages 17 - 18, paragraph 10.

The Examiner admits that neither Weschler, Kumazawa and Terretta disclose or suggest "the at least one plug-in passes a data structure to the computer operation, whereby the data structure contains the plug-in parameters that were not specified," as in claim 21. However, the Examiner asserts that Kobayashi at column 6, lines 56 - 58, discloses this feature. See Final Office Action, page 17, paragraph 10. However, this section states that means for causing the request reception server to recognize that <u>information to be passed to the plug-in</u> modules as an input is acquired by executing another plug-in module on the request reception server. See Kobayashi, column 6, lines 56 - 58. In other words, the cited section of Kobayashi states that information is passed to the plug-in, but not that the "plug-in passes a data structure to the computer operation," as claimed. Moreover this section does not disclose or suggest that the data structure contains the plug-in parameters that were not specified, as further recited in claim 21. Therefore, for these additional reasons, claim 21 is patentable over the combination of Weschler, Kumazawa, Terretta and Kobayashi.

With respect to claim 22, the Examiner Asserts that Kobayashi discloses "the computer operation prompts a user to enter at least one required parameter that was not specified," as claimed. See Final Office Action, page 18, paragraph 10. However, the cited section of Kobayashi, column 6, lines 48 - 53 states:

> To achieve the above objects, the present invention provides a parallel database management system including a request reception server for receiving a request from a user, and a plurality of execution servers for parallelly executing database processing appropriate to the request from the user in accordance with instructions of the request reception server, wherein

> the request reception server and the execution servers have a function of
> executing a plug-in module incorporated in a database system by the user.

This section mentions nothing about a computer operation prompting a user to enter at least
one required parameter that was not specified, as claimed. Therefore, for these additional
reasons, claim 22 is patentable over the combination of Weschler, Kumazawa, Terretta and
Kobayashi.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from patentable claim 13, and for this reason and the
additional features they recite, claims 21 and 22 are patentable. Consequently, Applicant
respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 21 and 22 as being obvious over Weschler in
view of Kumazawa, Terretta and Kobayashi be vacated and reversed for these additional
reasons as well.

G.   **Weschler, Kumazawa, Terretta and Edelman, Individually or in
       Combination, Do Not Disclose or Suggest the Features of Claim 24**

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of
Kumazawa and Terretta, and further in view of Edelman. See Final Office Action, pages 19 -
20, paragraph 11.

Claim 24 recites, among other features, "the authorization plug-in links to a license
key generation tool ... the authorization plug-in grants authorization only if the system
application is executed with a parameter specifying a license key generated by that tool."

The Examiner admits that this element of claim 24 is missing, however cites to
Edelman as disclosing this element. The Examiner cites to col. 8, lines 13 - 14 and col. 18,
lines 64 - 67, the same sections cited to reject dependent claim 9. See Section VII (D), above.
As described above, the sections of Edelman cited in the Final Office Action do not disclose
or suggest that "authorization plug-in grants authorization only if the system application is
executed with a parameter specifying a license key generated by that tool," as recited in
dependent claim 24. Since, as discussed above, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by

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Weschler, Kumazawa, Terretta and Edelman, individually and in combination, claim 24 is

patentable. Claim 24 is also patentable because of its dependence on patentable claim 13.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 24 as being

obvious over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and in view of Terretta and Edelman be

vacated and reversed for these reasons as well.

H. Gullotta, Terretta and Grey, Individually or in Combination, Do Not Do Not Disclose or Suggest the Features of Claim 32

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gullotta in view of Terretta

and further in view of Grey. See Final Office Action, pages 20 - 21, paragraph 12.

Dependent claim 32 recites "if notification is required, checking to see if a party to be

notified has been specified, wherein failing to specify a party to be notified will cause the

computer operation to terminate."

Admitting that Gullotta and Terretta fail to disclose the above-recited features of

dependent claim 32, the Examiner states that:

> Grey in [analogous] art, however, discloses a method wherein providing data
> indicative of an authorization and performing authorization process to proceed
> after the notification is performed. (Page 6, paragraphs 49 and 50) By
> performing the notification before the authorization process, the vendor, will
> be able to terminate the computer operation if unable to notify the proper
> authority.

See Final Office Action, page 20, paragraph 12. Grey does not overcome the admitted

deficiencies of Gullotta and Terretta. First, Applicant disagrees that Grey is in analogous art

with Gullotta and Terretta. Grey relates to facilitating a transaction involving a product by

breaking down the transaction into two or more secondary transactions. See Grey, e.g., page

1, paragraph 5 and page 3, paragraph 23. The transaction involves the purchase or sale of a

product (e.g., chemical, food product, semiconductor or electronic component) at one or more

marketplaces. Grey describes products to include any intangible or tangible good as well as

any kind of service. See Grey, e.g., page 3, paragraph 23. However, Grey is not analogous

prior art to the claimed invention. The MPEP § 2141.01(a) states that the examiner must determine what is analogous prior art for the purpose of analyzing the obviousness of the subject matter at issue. "In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned." *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Applicant submits that Grey is not analogous prior art to the claimed invention as it does not relate to a method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer operator. Therefore, Grey cannot be relied on for rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
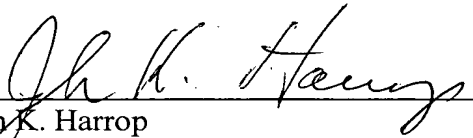
Moreover, even if Grey is analogous prior art, which it is not, the sections cited in the Final Office Action, do not disclose or suggest the claimed features. Paragraph 49 of Grey lists what the step of "providing a notification during the step 106 [Figure 1] of at least one of the secondary requests may include." See page 6, paragraph 49. Paragraph 50 is related "a step of determining a fee for completing all or part of the method 140," shown in Figure 2. See pages 6 - 7, paragraph 50. However, neither of these paragraphs disclose or suggest that "failing to specify a party to be notified will cause the computer operation to terminate," as in dependent claim 32. Apparently recognizing that Grey does not disclose or suggest this feature, the Final Office Action merely states that "[b]y performing the notification before the authorization process, the vendor will be able to terminate the computer operation if unable to notify the proper authority." See Final Office Action, page 20, paragraph 12. Since, as discussed above, the features of claim 32 are not disclosed or suggested by Gullotta, Terretta and Grey, individually and in combination, claim 32 is patentable. Claim 32 is also patentable because of its dependence on patentable claim 27.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 32 as being obvious over Gullotta in view of Terretta and further in view of Grey be vacated and reversed for these additional reasons as well.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 - 32 as being obvious over the applied references be vacated and reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **May 15, 2006**

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.   (original):   A method for regulating execution of a computer operation, comprising:

reading one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;

determining if the computer operation requires a plug-in and if not, executing the computer operation;

if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;

determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified;

terminating the at least one plug-in with failure if not all the required plug-in parameters have been specified;

executing the at least one plug-in if all the required plug-in parameters have been specified; and

executing the computer operation if the at least one plug-in terminates with success, wherein the at least one plug-in regulates execution of the computer operation.

2.   (original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one plug-in requires at least one plug-in parameter.

3.   (original):   The method of claim 1, further comprising passing an error message to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified.

4.   (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising passing a data structure to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified.

5.   (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising prompting a user of the computer operation for the required plug-in parameters that had not been specified based on the data structure.

6.   (original):   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one plug-in further comprises an authorization plug-in and executing the at least one plug-in further comprises attempting to obtain authorization for executing the computer operation.

7.   (original):   The method of claim 6, further comprising terminating the authorization plug-in with failure if authorization was not successfully obtained, thereby terminating the computer operation.

8.   (previously presented):   The method of claim 6, wherein obtaining authorization further includes checking to see whether a value of at least one required plug-in parameter matches a value of at least one authorization parameter.

9.   (original):   The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one authorization parameter is generated using a license key generating tool.

10.   (original):   The method of claim 1, wherein executing at least one plug-in further comprises executing a notification plug-in.

11.   (original):   The method of claim 10, further comprising determining whether all of the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation, whereby the computer operation is not executed if the notification plug-in terminates with failure after determining whether all of the plug-in parameters are specified.

12.   (original):   The method of claim 10, wherein executing the notification plug-in further comprises notifying a party designated for notification.

13.   (previously presented):   A computer operation for executing a system function on a computer further comprising:

        means for receiving at least one specified computer operation parameter;

        at least one plug-in that performs a regulatory function and that terminates with either success or failure;

        means for operating the at least one plug-in a check mode; and

        means for operating the at least one plug-in in an execute mode,

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wherein the computer operation will execute only if the at least one plug-in terminates with success.

14.   (original):   The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the computer operation determines which of the specified computer operation parameters is a plug-in parameter and passes all specified plug-in parameters to the at least one plug-in.

15.   (original): The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in requires at least one required plug-in parameter.

16.   (original): The computer operation of claim 15, wherein the at least one plug-in determines whether any required plug-in parameters are among the specified plug-in parameters.

17.   (original): The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in has a check mode in which the plug-in is executed to only check for the at least one required plug-in parameter.

18.   (original): The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in has an execute mode in which the execute mode causes the plug-in to perform the regulatory function of the plug-in.

19.   (original):   The computer operation of claim 17, wherein the computer operation passes a mode flag to the at least one plug-in indicating whether to check for the at least one required plug-in parameter.

20.   (original): The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in generates at least one error message to be returned to the computer operation indicating that at least one required plug-in parameter was not specified.

21.   (original): The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in passes a data structure to the computer operation, whereby the data structure contains the plug-in parameters that were not specified.

22.   (original):   The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the computer operation prompts a user to enter at least one required parameter that was not specified.

23.   (original): The computer operation of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is an authorization plug-in.

24.   (original): The computer operation of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in links to a license key generation tool controlled by an authorizing party so that the authorization plug-in grants authorization only if the system application is executed with a parameter specifying a license key generated by that tool.

25.   (original): The computer operation of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in determines if authorization is granted by querying an authorization server to see if the computer is authorized to perform the computer operation.

26.   (original): The computer operation of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is a notification plug-in and has means for notifying a party that the computer operation has been executed.

27.   (previously presented):   A method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer operator comprising:
        providing a programming interface for a customer to customize an authorization routine;
            receiving a request to execute a computer operation from a computer operator;
            determining if authorization is required for executing the computer operation;
            seeking authorization from an authorizing party with the authorization routine if authorization is required;
            operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified;
            if all required plug-in parameters are specified operating the authorization plug-in in an execute mode;
            executing the computer operation if authorization is granted; and
            terminating the computer operation if authorization is denied.

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28.   (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising:

determining if notification is required for executing the computer operation and if notification is required, providing a notification to the party to be notified, so that the party to be notified will know that the computer operation was executed.

29.   (original): The method of claim 28, wherein prior to executing the computer operation, authorization is sought from the same party as the party being notified, so that the authorizing party is the party being notified.

30.   (original): The method of claim 27, wherein seeking authorization further comprises asking the computer operator to enter a key and comparing the entered key with a key required by the authorizing party.

31.   (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising providing a toolkit for the customer to customize the authorization routine.

32.   (original): The method of claim 28, further comprising determining if notification is required and if notification is required, checking to see if a party to be notified has been specified, wherein failing to specify a party to be notified will cause the computer operation to terminate.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence submitted.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

No related proceedings.